

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 30, 2009 – 9:00am–2:00pm

Western Nevada College
Cedar Building, Room 307
Carson City, NV

College of Southern Nevada
Cheyenne Campus, Room 2638
North Las Vegas, NV

Great Basin College
Ely Branch Campus, Room
114, Ely, NV

Commissioners Present:

Theodore Quasula, Chairman (Videoconference)
Richard Arnold, Vice-Chairman (Videoconference)
Sharon Frederick, Commissioner (Videoconference)
Teresa Sprouse, Commissioner (Videoconference)
William Oliver, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Katherine Rakow, Administrative Aide

Guests Present:

Wayne Howle, Solicitor General, Attorney General's Office
Fredina Drye-Romero, Indian Education Consultant, Nevada Department of Education
Misty Allen, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Office of Suicide Prevention
Connie Kratkey, Coordinator, Indian Education Opportunities Program, Clark County School District
Darlene Graham, Shoshone

I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call

Chairman Quasula convened the meeting at 9:12 a.m. and asked Sherry to take roll. Five Commissioners were present, establishing a quorum.

II. Invocation

Commissioner Arnold provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Quasula asked all those present to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2009

Commissioner Arnold motioned to approve March 18, 2009 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion passed with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Quasula reminded that we spoke last time about a feasibility study for a detention facility for the tribes. Department of Justice was asked to appropriate funds to work with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. He followed up with Senator Reid's office and the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Executive Director. He will follow up again with the Department of Justice to find some funding.

Chairman Quasula reported that he did check with the Arizona Inter-Tribal Council on their Tribal Legislative Day. It wasn't easy for them. They did get legislation enacted that provides for that day and he has a copy. It is a day that all tribal leaders and legislators meet to discuss issues that affect Indian country. The Chairman would like to see this happen in Nevada and would like to discuss this with the tribes. There is also work to be done in getting our legislators to agree to introduce the legislation.

Commissioner Arnold inquired of the content of the Arizona Tribal Legislative Day. Chairman Quasula replied that the meetings covered anything that is affecting Indian Country at the time. He spoke with the Executive Director of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona and they feel that it is very effective for them.

Commissioner Sprouse requested Chairman Quasula send her a copy of the legislation to review. Chairman Quasula directed Sherry to look at Arizona Revised Statutes Section 41-541 through 41-545. It is the legislation that lays everything out. Specifically, ARS 41-544 is the legislation for the Indian Nations Legislative Day. He also recommended having our legal staff (Wayne Howle) take a look at this document and communicate this to the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. Sherry reported that at the Legislative Training Day that the Nevada Indian Commission coordinated for the tribal leaders it was commented at that time that the tribes in attendance were very interested in having a Tribal Legislative Day.

VI. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Frederick mentioned her former student from Arizona was on his second tour of duty in Iraq and was recently injured in a roadside bomb. His name is Tyrell Manakaja from Peach Springs, Arizona and she asked everyone to keep him in their thoughts.

VII. Executive Director Report – Sherry L. Rupert

A. Introduction of Workforce Development Placement Administrative Aide – Katherine Rakow

Sherry introduced Katherine to the Board and explained that she is an adult workforce placement through the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada that started with the Commission on March 24, 2009. Katherine has been a great asset to the Commission. We will miss her when her hours run out at the end of September.

B. Update on the Nevada Indian Commission Budget for FY 2010 and FY 2011, Staff Furloughs and Review of Budget Status Report (for Current Funding Year)

Sherry directed the Commissioners to the handouts provided in their packets and provided a brief overview of the agency fund map and balances in the Commission's budget and gift accounts. She also explained the legislatively mandated staff furloughs and presented the Commissioners with a listing of scheduled furlough days for staff.

Commissioner Arnold wanted clarification of dates selected for furloughs. Sherry explained that furlough days were chosen based on set personnel policies. She gave the example that a state employee has to take a furlough day each month, but the days cannot be taken in two separate months if they fall within the same pay period.

C. Report on Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference – April 27-28, 2009, Cal-Neva Resort Spa and Casino, Crystal Bay, NV

Sherry explained that the Indian Territory and the Commission have partnered to bring this conference to the Tribes to discuss tourism opportunities. The conference took place at the Cal-Neva Resort Spa and Casino, April 27-28, 2009 and had about 20 attendees. It was an intimate setting and there was a lot of one-on-one interaction between the attendees and the speakers. The evaluations for the conference overwhelmingly came back as "excellent" and they gave us a lot of ideas for next year's conference.

D. Report on White Bison Journey for Wellbriety Event – May 24, 2009

Sherry reported that this event took place out at Stewart on May 24, 2009 and there were approximately 100 in attendance. White Bison presented information on historical trauma, asked alumni to provide testimonies in regard to their time at Stewart and then provided their personal testimonies. The testimonies were very powerful and emotional. They then held a healing ceremony at the end. We also had a barbeque for everyone in attendance. It was a successful event.

E. Report on Nevada Broadcaster's Association Radio and Television Interview – June 16, 2009

Bob Fisher, President and CEO of the Nevada Broadcaster's Association invited Daryl Crawford, Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada and Sherry to participate in a radio and television interview on the

Nevada tribes. The television interview aired on July 19, 2009 on 7 stations in the state. Mr. Fisher would like to tape subsequent interviews so the viewing public can know more about the tribes.

F. Sherry reported that she participated in the following:

1. 2009 Rural Roundup, Fallon, NV – April 1-3, 2009

Sherry was awarded the 2009 Excellence in Tourism Award for her work on the Stewart Indian School Trail as a new and innovative tourism product for Nevada.

2. Clark County School District Indian Education Opportunities Program Graduation Luncheon, Las Vegas, NV – April 23, 2009
3. Nevada State Education Association Award Banquet, Reno, NV – April 25, 2009

Sherry was honored at this banquet with the 2009 Human and Civil Rights Award by the Nevada State Education Association Minority Affairs Committee for her work on the Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Strategic Plan and the Stewart Indian School Trail as an educational tool for the state.

4. 2009 UNR American Indian Graduation Reception, Reno, NV – May 6, 2009
5. 2009 UNLV American Indian Convocation Ceremony, Las Vegas, NV – May 8, 2009
6. Nevada Commission on Tourism May Sales Blitz, San Diego, CA – May 14-15, 2009
7. Tribal Energy Summit, Fallon, NV - June 11, 2009
8. Global Kids Camp, Northern Nevada International Center, Reno, NV – July 6, 2009

G. The following upcoming meetings/conferences/events were shared with the Board:

1. Region IX Federal Interagency Tribal Conference, Sparks, NV – September 1-2, 2009
2. American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Conference, Santa Fe, NM – September 21-23, 2009
3. National Congress of American Indians 66th Annual Convention, Santa Fe, NM – October 11-16, 2009
4. Governors' Interstate Indian Council Annual Meeting, Palm Springs, CA – October 17, 2009
5. Nevada Indian Commission Honor the Elders Banquet, Carson City, NV – November 7, 2009
6. Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Annual Convention, Reno, NV – November 9-12, 2009

Chairman Quasula congratulated Sherry on behalf of the board for her awards.

VIII. * Informational Presentation on Collaboration with Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Suicide Prevention on Tribal Suicide Prevention Project – Misty Allen, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Office of Suicide Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services

Misty stated that she has been with office since 2005 and coordinates the program for 16 counties throughout the state. She has 2 in her office and her main purpose is to develop, implement and evaluate a suicide prevention plan for Nevada. When they began legislation for her office Nevada had the highest rate of suicide in the nation, currently Nevada now has the 4th highest rate of suicide. Their plan has been developed and they have 11 goals and 35 objectives in a comprehensive manner.

They had a youth suicide prevention grant for 3 years to support the comprehensive state plan. She wrote a grant for a Native American youth suicide prevention program and they are in the first year. They received \$1.5 million for a 3 year grant last August. The grant is a great partnership between the Indian Health Service, the Indian Health Board of Nevada, and the Office of Suicide Prevention. They hired a director, Claudia Castaneda-Melendez and they are in the process of hiring a Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator. The program is intended to be a partnership to increase services. The Office of Suicide Prevention is a subgrantee of the Indian Health Board of Nevada. Their main role is to be out with Nevada's tribes and talk about a very painful topic. The Nevada Indian Commission is also a partner and will be instrumental with the introduction of the program and the Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator to Nevada's tribes and to assist in the development of culturally relevant presentations, materials and workshops/conferences as they move through the 3 years. Many people are ready for the discussions and forming task forces. The funding is meant to develop a statewide native youth prevention plan and program.

Chairman Quasula asked if there is a documented number of American Indian suicides in Nevada. Misty replied that there is limited information and wants to improve this. The state demographer lists suicide as 0% for American Indians. We know that this is not the case. This also depends on the Coroner's determination of death as many suicides are recorded as accidental or undetermined because the stigma is so powerful. She would like to change this stigma. Her office will be working with the tribal clinics to improve the data and prevention methods.

Commissioner Frederick asked the age range the youth specialist would be targeting. Misty replied from 10-24 years of age. Her office with Sherry's help will be able to go out to the tribal communities to talk about this topic. A big step is to go in and start to talk about healing first. Commissioner Frederick mentioned that the state of Washington produces comic books for American Indian youth. Misty has seen these and they are great. Misty stated that public awareness is driven by the youth and she is hoping to find youth from next month's youth conference to be part of the Youth Council. She stated that the comic books are very effective. Commissioner Frederick stated that she is excited about the Youth Council and thinks it is a great avenue to pursue. Misty would like any youth leaders brought to her attention.

Commissioner Arnold wanted to know if Misty would include off-reservation Indians (urbans) in her methodology and program since they are the bulk of the population in Nevada. She is working with Nevada Urban Indians to contact youth in the schools. She believes that with more council and steering committee members available, it will make the identification of participants much easier. Commissioner Arnold also suggested Misty utilize the NIC's resource directory and tribal clinics as resources. Misty appreciates the Nevada Indian Commission's willingness to help. This has to be community wide, to find the champions within the communities. The new hire will be instrumental.

Sherry offered that the NIC's Indian Education Advisory Committee would be a good resource in identifying youth as the Committee is comprised of the tribal Education Directors who have access to the students.

Commissioner Arnold also mentioned that working with the school districts and county offices that have contact with Indian people may be beneficial.

Chairman Quasula asked what the expectations for youth are on the Youth Council as he has some outstanding youth in mind for the Council. Misty replied that they haven't yet put many expectations for the youth, but wants to include youth statewide. They will be meeting quarterly to develop the media campaign, what they would like to see in a conference, topics, presenters, and peer mentoring.

At this time a 10 minute break was taken.

IX. *Discussion and Possible Revision of the Nevada Indian Commission Strategic Plan

Sherry reported that the NIC strategic plan was last updated in September 2005 and needed to be reviewed and updated. She has many revisions and would like to have comments and input from the board on the plan. Chairman Quasula asked the Commissioners to review and comment to Sherry by September 18, 2009.

Commissioner Sprouse commented that one of her concerns is for the healthcare of the Indian people and should be included in the plan.

Commissioner Frederick inquired if Pyramid Lake was still interested in a tribal college. Sherry stated that she had not heard any discussion of Pyramid Lake proceeding with a tribal college.

X. *Update on the Progress of Recommendations Made to the Nevada Department of Corrections on Administrative Regulation 810 – Religious Faith Group Activities and Programs

Sherry gave a brief overview of her last meeting with the administration of the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) in regard to Administrative Regulation (AR) 810. She reported that one of the main concerns of the Advisory Committee was that the NDOC policy for inmate eligibility for participation in the sweatlodge was too restrictive. Inmates who do not have a tribal enrollment card from a federally-recognized tribe are being prevented from participating, even though they had participated in the sweatlodge ceremonies for 15-20 years prior. The NDOC Director decided at the meeting that they he would let the Nevada Indian Commission determine who would be eligible to participate. Sherry stated that she was concerned that the NIC had been given this task and she wanted to protect the NIC from any litigation that may arise from any determination of eligibility.

Commissioner Frederick stated that she had a copy of the Las Vegas Sun article in regard to the Advisory Committee meeting. The Las Vegas Sun article is a little different than the article that appeared in the Nevada Appeal. She interprets the article as stating that the NDOC Director would look at each inmate on a case by case

basis and that he would make the determination. Sherry clarified that the NIC was given the authority to make the determination on who would participate in the sweatlodge (if the inmate didn't have a tribal enrollment card).

Commissioner Arnold is concerned that there isn't a policy and this could become somewhat subjective in the absence of a policy. There are different perspectives on this issue. He is not sure what the answer is.

Chairman Quasula commented that this could be a tremendous undertaking and wanted to know what the Advisory Committee thinks about the situation. He agrees that this is extremely subjective and would like to have input from the Advisory Committee. Sherry replied that the Advisory Committee has not yet met on this issue specifically.

Commissioner Arnold commented that he participates on the committee and that he doesn't think that anybody has really systematically broken this down. He believes that a policy is needed before we can move forward in whatever direction we choose.

Wayne Howle commented that maybe this isn't something that we want to pursue. He agrees that there need to be criteria. They will ultimately be challenged in court and the judge will want to know what criteria were used to arrive at a logical decision. So, those criteria need to be identified up front and applied evenly and fairly in every case. One possibility could be adjusting the federal definition of a tribal member, i.e. descendency, tribal affiliation, requiring any one of them to satisfy the criteria for participation in the ceremony rather than all of them.

Commissioner Arnold further commented on the discussion from the Advisory Committee meeting that so many people want to get involved in the sweatlodge because of the tobacco. It seems like this would just open up Pandora's Box. There are so many variables that we have not considered.

Commissioner Frederick read from the Las Vegas Sun article in regard to the tobacco.

Commissioner Sprouse commented that she feels that we may be stepping out of our boundaries getting involved in this.

Commissioner Arnold stated that the charter of the NIC is to be an investigatory body for those issues that come before us. I could see that if there is an issue, then we look into the issue, but it is not up to us to police it. There has to be some type of reasonable solution because it is an issue and concern that came before the Commission.

Commissioner Sprouse would be comfortable if we could reach a consensus making some sort of recommendation, but not setting policy.

Sherry commented that the discussion was to come up with a recommendation and doing some additional research, looking at the federal law, but letting NDOC make the determination.

Commissioner Oliver stated that this is a way for the NDOC to get off the hook and place this on our shoulders and that we should not be making policy for NDOC.

Commissioner Arnold agreed with Wayne's suggestion that we look at the federal definition and that Sherry should look at the purpose of the Committee and narrow our focus to the stated purpose.

Sherry clarified that the Nevada Indian Commission became involved with the Nevada Department of Corrections and their Administrative Regulation 810 in 2004 when she first started. The NDOC had new administration and changed the Administrative Regulation governing the American Indian inmates without any input and there were several complaint letters from the American Indian inmate population requesting assistance from the NIC.

Chairman Quasula pointed out that there is a legal definition of what is an Indian in the federal code. The federal government does not determine tribal membership the tribes determine the blood quantum for their membership. There isn't anything simple about this issue. He suggested that Sherry check with Federal Bureau of Prisons and see how they handle it. This may be a good starting point. Chairman Quasula asked how the decision came about to have the NIC make the eligibility determination. Sherry responded that the catalyst for the change in policy, from AR 809 to AR 810, was change in the federal law, RLUIPA. The NDOC now has a tobacco ban except for the American Indians. So, they are concerned that there will now be more interest by inmates in joining the sweatlodge so they can have access to tobacco.

Wayne commented that the Nevada Indian Commission is an important and necessary contribution to the Nevada Department of Corrections, but to what extent and how deeply to get involved.

Commissioner Arnold commented that we need to revisit our recommendations to NDOC.

Chairman Quasula suggested having the Committee review the recommendations and then share with the NIC Executive Board. Perhaps the entire Commission could meet with the NDOC, with Wayne present to discuss the recommendations before we take the final step. Sherry is to let the NDOC and Director Skolnik know that we are working on this issue.

XI. *Update on Request for Assistance by the Inter-Tribal Emergency Response Commission to Secure a Tribal Appointment on the Homeland Security Commission

Sherry reported that she attended a January 29, 2009 meeting of the Inter-Tribal Emergency Response Commission where the Commission asked her to assist in securing a seat on the Homeland Security Commission for the Nevada tribes. Sherry contacted Mr. Rick Eaton, Director of the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Eaton was very supportive of including the tribes in the discussion. The Chairman of the Homeland Security Commission, Dale Carrison, does not agree that the tribes should sit on the Homeland Security Commission as he considers them a "special interest group." Rick Eaton recommended that the tribes proceed with nominating someone to represent them on the Commission. Sherry met with the Indian Health Board of Nevada and members of the Inter-Tribal Emergency Response Commission last week to discuss a candidate for the Homeland Security Commission. The Indian Health Board of Nevada nominated Mr. David Hunkup of the Reno Sparks-Indian Colony as their representative for the at large seat on the Homeland Security Commission and Mr. Terry Bohl, Emergency Manager of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe as the tribal representative on the Working Group. Director Eaton has asked Sherry to put together an itinerary to visit the reservations to see the tribal homeland security issues first hand.

Commissioner Arnold commented that clearly there is the Nevada Indian Commission for a purpose. That's because there is a unique relationship between the state of Nevada and the tribes. So, obviously we are not a "special interest group" and the comments made by Mr. Carrison are rather demeaning. He hopes that the tribes can come together on this issue and be proactive and make this known to the Governor. This is something that really fits within the purview of this Commission. This is something that we need to do to assist the tribes.

Sherry commented that Chairman Moyle has requested a meeting with the Governor's Office on this issue. He agrees that the tribes need to be involved on this Commission and the tribes need to be behind Alvin on this process. This needs to be a permanent position on the Commission.

Chairman Quasula inquired of when the Governor's office would be meeting with Chairman Moyle. Sherry replied that she would be calling the new Chief of Staff, Robin Reedy, in the next few days. Chairman Quasula further suggested that the Nevada Indian Commission should support the Indian Health Board of Nevada with their recommendation for a permanent seat on the Homeland Security Commission.

Commissioner Sprouse recommended that the NIC support a Native American on the Commission, not a specific Native American, but a Native American.

Commissioner Oliver added that the position should be a permanent position.

Commissioner Arnold stated that this shows that we are trying to address the issue, but not endorsing a person.

A letter (statement of support) needs to be drafted to the Governor's Office as discussed with a carbon copy to the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada and the Indian Health Board of Nevada.

It was motioned by Commissioner Arnold to support the appointment of a representative of Indian Tribes of Nevada as recommended by Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada and the Indian Health Board of Nevada to serve on the Homeland Security Commission on a permanent basis, seconded by Commissioner Sprouse. Motion carried.

XII. EDUCATION

- A. Update on NIC Indian Education Advisory Committee Activities, Pam Abercrombie, Vice-Chair, NIC Indian Education Advisory Committee and Education Director, Yerington Paiute Tribe

Sherry provided a brief report in Pam's absence. The State Board of Education overwhelmingly approved the Nevada American Indian/Alaska Native Education Strategic Plan on March 20, 2009. They noted that the document was very well done. Since that meeting we have had the Plan printed and we are in the process of drafting a letter to introduce the Plan to the school districts, tribal education departments and the Nevada System of Higher Education institutions. The Committee has also been working on recruitment of 5 additional Sierra Nevada College (SNC) scholarship recipients. The scholarship selection committee met and recommended 3 of the 5 applicants be considered for the SNC Native American scholarship. There are currently 2 scholarships that are still available until filled. The other item the Committee has been working on is revision to the Financial Needs Analysis form. The Southern Nevada institutions were not originally included on the form; now, all Nevada System of Higher Education institutions are included on the form.

B. Update on Current Indian Education Consultant Activities - Fredina Drye-Romero, Nevada Department of Education

Fredina handed out her new newsletter and will forward to Sherry for distribution to the Commissioners. The intent of her newsletter is to highlight programs statewide. She went over some of the information in her newsletter and the Veggies for Kids curriculum where Paiute words are taught for the names of the vegetables. This curriculum was used at Natchez and the newsletter will be posted on the Nevada Department of Education website. She is working on curricula and gathering resources with her district representatives. She did a session at the Great Basin College Youth Conference with this curriculum (based on the Social Study standards). She is going to be presenting this to her committee at her next meeting. She is currently planning for next Nevada Indian Education Summit scheduled for March 22-23, 2010. They are looking at quality vs. quantity this time. She is making sure that the Great Basin Native American languages curriculum is online and available for the districts and the tribes. She is also working on a youth conference with Kari Emm, UNR.

Fredina's office has moved from Room 110 to 113 and they have 2 new people within the Gear Up program. She also has a new Director, Rory Fitzpatrick.

XIII. STEWART

A. Report on the 2009 Stewart Father's Day Powwow

Sherry directed the Commissioners to the Event Evaluation and Report in their meeting packets. She reported that the Powwow was larger this year than she had seen since she has been coordinating the powwow. She estimated that there were 5,000-6,000 participants and spectators throughout the weekend. They saw a huge increase in the number of vendors from 36 to 50. There were 9 drum groups and approximately 300 dancers. It has a huge success and they sold out the t-shirts, raffle tickets and programs. The Powwow Committee will debrief in August and discuss the amount that will be given to the Stewart Indian Cultural Center. They usually give 50% of the proceeds to the Cultural Center and 50% is retained for start up costs for the following year.

Commissioner Frederick asked if alumni attendance was increasing. Sherry replied that the number of alumni in attendance has definitely increased. They had vans of alumni arrive from Arizona. There was a lot of energy around the alumni booth in Building #1 as there was an exhibit, pictures and yearbook copies. Sherry was approached by alumni to coordinate a reunion. Sherry declined to coordinate the event as her plate is full with the existing activities, but she did agree to assist with finding the venue for such an event.

Commissioner Oliver commented that he was very pleased with the event and the event was successful because of the work of the NIC staff. He has been to a number of these events and it's getting bigger and bigger each year. They are going to need some extra help this coming year as he foresees it being larger than last year.

Sherry commented that the number of volunteers has increased each year and they were able to get a sponsor for this year's barbeque, Rupert's Autobody. Commissioner Frederick asked that Sherry thank the Rupert Family for their contributions to the event, they always step up to the plate to assist.

B. Update on Progress of Building #1 Rehabilitation for the Stewart Indian Cultural Center

Sherry reported that the NIC was able to get power connected to the building during this period. The next steps identified, through discussions with the State Historic Preservation Office, are to address items that are historic and could be saved or reversed to preserve the integrity of the building (i.e. stairs). If we do decide to change the scope of work to preserve these historic aspects of the building, she will be able to help us navigate in redirecting the funds.

Commissioner Frederick commented that if we were to change the direction of the stairs, they should be widened as they are very narrow. Sherry will bring this up to the Committee.

Sherry reported that fiscal is working on the authority to receive the grant funds. The Interim Finance Committee will be meeting in September and though we can't move forward with expending the funds, we will continue to work on next steps in the process.

Commissioner Frederick also mentioned the possibility of an elevator in the building. Sherry replied that the elevator may be a possibility if it was decided to use the basement for public use. We currently don't have plans to use the second floor for public use; it is proposed to be used for storage and curation of the collection. The next meeting of the Stewart Advisory Committee is August 7, 2009.

C. Update on State Public Works Board Permit for the Stewart Indian School Trail

Sherry reported that this has been a long process. The State Public Works Board had some concerns about ADA compliance and has required that there be several changes to the Trail. We are going to have to redirect a portion of the Trail as the slope is too steep on one section of the Trail. Buildings and Grounds will be responsible for a portion of the changes and we will be responsible for many of the other changes. The changes have been signed off by the State Historic Preservation Office. The State Public Works Board says they will approve the permit once it is signed off by the State Historic Preservation Office.

The kiosk for the Trail has been designed and is being fabricated now. The next step will be to install the kiosk.

D. Report on Stewart Roundtables

Two roundtables have been held in Las Vegas and in Elko, Nevada. We are going to have a subsequent meeting in the Reno area, but the date has not yet been set. The purpose of the roundtables is to find out from the alumni and the community what they would like to see in the Cultural Center, what was important to them and what story they would like the Cultural Center to tell. Sherry wants to continue the meetings as she doesn't believe 3 meetings will be enough to get to the smaller communities and to the elders. Once the meetings have been held, she will put the findings into a report for the Stewart Advisory Committee to use for future planning of the Cultural Center.

E. Nevada Day Parade Entry for Stewart

The NIC has put together a subcommittee to work on the float and has set a meeting on August 18, 2009 to discuss the entry. The Nevada Day Parade Committee has decided on the theme of "Honoring Abraham Lincoln" for this year's parade. The Committee is trying to decide how to incorporate the theme into our float design as after initial research on Mr. Lincoln it seems he did not have a very high opinion of American Indians. It is going to be difficult. He was supportive of education so the thought was to have a quote from him on the float.

F. Honor the Elders Fundraiser for the Stewart Indian Cultural Center – November 7, 2009

The fundraiser is scheduled for November 7, 2009 at the Governor's Mansion in the Nevada Room. Staff is in the process of planning the event. There is no charge for the room; they provide the room only.

Chairman Quasula asked if there is any document anywhere that tells where the students (of Stewart Indian School) came from, which reservations. Sherry replied that a lot of the records for the Stewart Indian School (Bureau of Indian Affairs records) are in the National Archives in San Bruno, CA.

XIV. *Update on Partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services and the Tribal Foster Care Regional Roundtables – Dorothy Edwards, Program Planner, Division of Child and Family Services

Sherry explained that Dorothy had a meeting prior to this and may be detained. She wanted to talk about our partnership with the Division of Child and Family Services and the Casey Family funds. We have also been holding roundtables across the state to bring information to the tribes on Title IV-E and the change in the Fostering Connections legislation wherein the tribes can now access tribal foster care reimbursement directly from the federal government rather than going through the state. There are of course requirements on the tribes in order to be eligible. We had specialists come in from the Casey Family Foundation to provide the information. There is a lot of interest from the tribes, but a lot of the smaller tribes do not have the infrastructure to comply, so the tribes are

talking about a possible consortium of tribes in order to comply. We also completed a needs assessment of the tribal foster care needs. We have put together a report on the roundtables and will present the findings on August 18, 2009 to the tribes. This information will also be used for workshops and technical assistance at the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Convention in November.

XV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Chairman Quasula stepped out briefly and Vice-Chairman Arnold proceeded with the meeting. Suggestions for future agenda items included: Recommendations to AR 810, update of feasibility study on detention centers, updates for NIC committees, Homeland Security visits and NIC strategic plan.

XVI. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting

Sherry will check with fiscal to see if NIC is still budgeted for 2 meetings. If the Commission has funding for only 2 meetings in the year, the next meeting should be scheduled in 6 months which would be January 2010. The next Nevada Indian Commission Board meeting is tentatively set to take place in January at 9:00am.

XVII. Public Comments

At this time the Chairman asked for any public comment. Connie Kratky commented that she looks forward to a long and engaging relationship with the Commission.

Chairman Quasula commented that his term is up in October which falls before the next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Frederick inquired if there were any term limits. Sherry stated that there aren't any term limits in the NIC statute, but could be determined by the Governor's Office. Chairman Quasula stated that this will give time for the Board to recruit. Sherry will talk with the Governor's Office about the terms. Commissioner Arnold mentioned that Sherry could see if the Governor's Office would consider delaying the term expiration at least until after the January meeting if he could not serve an additional term.

Chairman Quasula thanked everyone and especially Sherry and the NIC staff for their hard work.

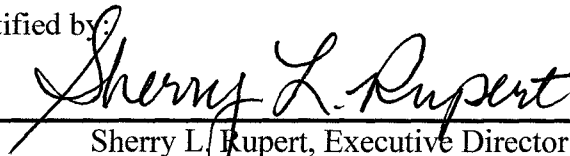
XVIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Frederick motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Arnold. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent). Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that these Meeting Minutes were approved at a meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, 0 absent, at a meeting duly held on November 17, 2009.

Certified by:



Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Nevada Indian Commission